



# BROWARD SIERRA NEWS



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## SEA TURTLES ARE IN PERIL

– Stan Pannaman, Broward Sierra Conservation Chair



As has been noticed in Broward County for the past five years, new research cites loss of male sea turtles. After meeting with Richard and Zen Whitecloud of Sea Turtle Oversight Protection (S.T.O.P.), I was told that fewer than 2% of loggerhead and green sea turtle hatchlings have been male. It is

believed that this will cause a catastrophic decline in sea turtles in the next 30 years leading to the extinction of the species. Since fewer and fewer sea turtles are males, eventually there will only be a few that will be able to fertilize females. This loss of biodiversity will cause the species to have juveniles born with genetic defects. According to scientists that Richard Whitecloud has been speaking to, when female turtles lay their eggs, the eggs that are laid deeper in the sand develop into males, since the temperatures are cooler the further down the eggs are laid. But because of global warming, the temperatures in the lower chambers produce females instead of males. It also has been noticed that many males have been struck and killed by cruise ships, container vessels, oil tankers, and large pleasure boats, thus increasing the loss of male sea turtles. All in all, because of the arrogance and stupidity of mankind's reliance on fossil fuel, the future looks rather bleak for the majestic turtles that have lived in the oceans of the planet earth for millions of years.



We also discussed that what is happening to the sea turtle is probably happening to all reptiles, such as alligators, crocodiles, snakes, and tortoises. They all lay eggs and bury them at different depths in the soil, marshes, or wetlands. The increases in global temperatures are affecting all continents, and therefore all species. The domino effect holds true from the melting of sea ice and the drowning of polar bears unable to swim far enough and long enough to reach land, to the migration patterns of birds who for millions of years

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## THE TREE

– Ann Wiley, Environmentalist

There was a tree . . . .

The huge, healthy, fruit-bearing native Sea Grape spreads its boughs out over the river's edge, dipping close to the water, reaching up to the sun, bringing shade to the ground, fruit to the birds, leaves to the manatees, and air to us.

Fewer and fewer trees and vegetation still reach close enough to the water's edge for the native West Indian Manatee, who frequents our concrete sea walls less and less, to reach and munch upon. But there are a few. One is this Sea Grape tree, and on some winter days the cooler water sends the manatees up river, a bough bends, and a big snout appears . . . and then a tiny one - a mama manatee has brought her baby up to feed! To learn how to pull the branches down and strengthen and feed her little gray body. It's a glorious sight.

Florida lies in the east coast bird migration flyway, and serves as a critical refueling station for these long-distance migrants. When they land they are exhausted, depleted to near starvation; they need to feed, immediately. The V-shaped, rich clusters of sea grapes serve as a welcome sight for these tired and courageous jewels of the sky. They bring their yellow and orange and rufous and red to the purple and green of the sea grape tree - and slowly regain their strength and energy, restore their fat stores - and take off. For years and decades they have used this tree. They have known this tree. They depend on it. They need it.

A week or so ago a new neighbor arrived. I didn't even know the house was for sale, or that there were new people. That's the way it is now. We don't know the neighbors anymore, they don't live here, don't visit, they don't care about our street or the cleanliness of the river or the life that the few scant trees support. They don't even know the trees . . . or care . . . or take the time to even learn, observe, listen.



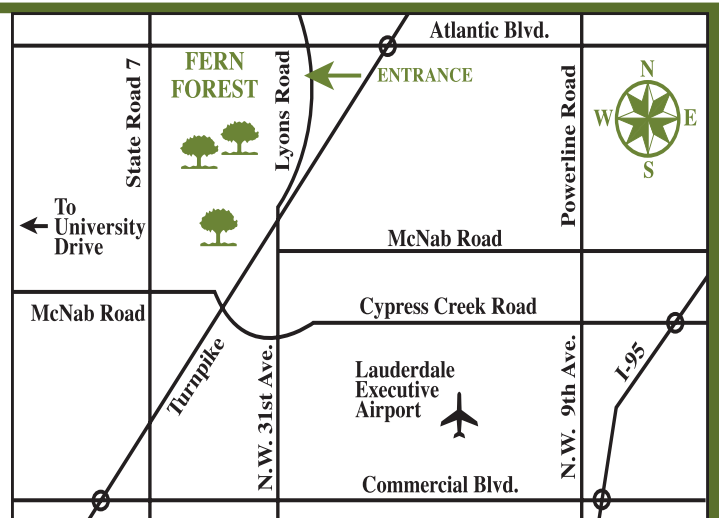
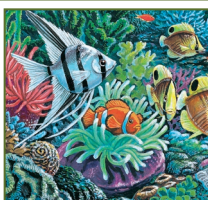
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**Broward Sierra Club's General Meetings - The first Thursday of each month we have committee reports and an educational program on conservation or environmental issues.**

**DIRECTIONS:** Fern Forest Nature Center, 201 Lyons Road South, in Coconut Creek is just south of Atlantic Blvd. on the west side of the street. (From the south, NW 31 Ave. becomes NW 46 Ave., and then Lyons Rd. as you pass under the turnpike.) Committee reports begin at 7:30, and the program follows. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

**Thursday, Sept 6th:** After committee reports, our guest speaker will be **Dr. Kenneth Banks, Natural Resources Specialist** for the Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department of Broward County. His presentation will be on problems facing the coral reefs in Broward County.



# LOCAL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS AND EVENTS

To preserve a place, you must believe in it. To believe in it, you must see it.



**SEP 8, SAT. PEOPLES CLIMATE MOVEMENT MARCH** after months of organizing and movement-building, the Peoples Climate Movement will move tens of thousands of people across the country into action, joining partners from around the world, to show our elected leaders that we demand action on climate change. Eight weeks later, millions more will take those demands to the polls, making Climate, Jobs, and Justice central issues in the mid-term elections and beyond. To learn more and sign up, go to <https://peoplesclimate.org/>



**NOV 17 - 18, SAT - SUN. CAMPGROUND CAMPING AND KAYAKING/CANOEING ON FISHEATING CREEK** Fisheating Creek is the only free-flowing tributary to Lake Okeechobee. Framed by bald cypress swamps and hardwood hammocks, Fisheating Creek has long been valued for its scenic quality unmarred by houses and other human intrusions. Fisheating Creek is critical to the long-term welfare of Florida panthers, Florida black bears, swallow-tailed kites, whooping and sandhill cranes, crested caracara, and a number of other species native to the area. We'll camp in the campground and paddle along the creek, enjoying the scenery and the abundant wildlife, including deer, feral hog, Osceola turkey, and plenty of gators. Our outfitter will be [www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com](http://www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com). We'll meet at the campground on Saturday morning and the outfitter will transport us and our kayaks/canoes to the Burnt Bridge put in point. On Sunday, we can explore some of the trails along the creek. You may bring your own kayak/canoe or rent one. The outfitter's price schedule for the transport is practically the same whether you bring your own vessel or rent from them. *Suggested donation is \$55 per person members, \$65 person non-members if you will have two people in your boat. If you are bringing or renting a single kayak, the donation is \$75 per person members and \$85 per person non-members. \$30 per person for non-paddlers.* This includes the campsite (both Friday and Saturday nights if you wish), 3 meals (Saturday lunch and dinner plus Sunday breakfast), upriver transport, and canoe/kayak rental, if applicable. RV sites are available at slight extra cost. Payment is due by October 28th. Rated Moderate. Limit 24. If you wish, you may camp at our main campground campsite on Friday evening on your own – just provide your own meals. Leaders Chas Hunt 561-739-3171, [loxoutings@gmail.com](mailto:loxoutings@gmail.com); Judy Kuchta 305-308-8913, [judykuchta@yahoo.com](mailto:judykuchta@yahoo.com); Kaatje Bernabei 305-298-0277, [kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net](mailto:kaatjebernabei@bellsouth.net); Max Goldstein 954-296-3411, [maxgold@yahoo.com](mailto:maxgold@yahoo.com).

## SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

– Pat Turpening, Broward Sierra Excom Secretary

The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact was formalized following the 2009 Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit, when elected officials came together to discuss challenges and strategies for responding to the impacts of climate change. In addition to Broward County, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Monroe Counties are part of this unique collaboration. To date, there have been nine annual Climate Leadership Summits with the tenth to occur October 24-25 at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Their website, [www.southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org](http://www.southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org), describes the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP), a tool which identifies vulnerabilities and prioritized actions in twelve areas such as agriculture, energy, emergency management, natural systems, and water. Each of these areas includes a number of specific recommendations. For instance, under natural systems, there are eighteen recommendations, such as respond to beach erosion, foster public awareness, and promote coastal natural systems.

According to District 96 Rep. Kristin Jacobs on WLRN radio's Sundial program, action is being taken because the recommendations are not mandated but are being undertaken out of a shared concern for the environment. The counties and their 109 cities have included the necessary actions in their budgets. All the municipalities are "moving in the same direction" (to address climate change challenges).

A list of the 35 cities which have signed onto the Mayor's Climate Action Plan and the dates when they did so is another feature of the website.

At the Compact's website, one can sign up for their quarterly newsletter, learn how their own city works with the Compact, or find out how to partner with them.

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA  
REGIONAL COMPACT  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE



*Sea Grapes, continued from previous page*

And so this masterful, healthy, native, life-giving tree, one week after the arrival of the new people, was sliced into with screaming chainsaws; its beautiful, large clusters of fruit, just weeks away from ripening, crashed to the ground. The branches where the chicks fed, their classroom, fell into the river, the leaves the mama manatee taught her baby to eat, hauled off to a truck and then a landfill.

And a stump remained . . . waiting for Fall migration, which starts this month.

*Ann Wiley has been working in sea turtle conservation for 30 years. For the last 10 years she's been an ecological tour guide leading groups through South Florida and the Greater Everglades System. She's a regular lecturer for Road Scholar, an avid birder, and teaches urban backyard landscaping that supports songbirds, wildlife, and native flora.*

*Sea Turtles, continued from previous page*

have flown the same migration patterns. When they land at a specific location, the food supply of insects that have just hatched would be readily available for them to eat, but now due to global warming, those insects hatched two weeks before the birds landed, thus causing 80% of them to die unable to have enough sustenance to maintain their life. Because of global warming, the evaporation of water from the soil is causing forest fires to burn uncontrollably, not only in the United States, but in Europe and the rest of the world as well. Not reported in the mainstream media are the crop failures in the Middle and Far East as well as in Africa, causing the beginning of famines in many third world countries. I believe by September or October, pressure from such groups as Feed the Children, Doctors Without Borders, AmeriCares, and Mercy Corps will force the mainstream media to report these catastrophic famine conditions. All in all, our leaders have been more concerned that corporations could make their short-term profits and keep their shareholders happy, rather than believing that the burning of fossil fuel would lead to the sixth massive global extinction.

